TARC NEWSLETER

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY, 1995

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Charles Fagel KR4YZ 267-1475 SECRETARY: Bobbi Sue Wood AD4VV 268-8537
V.PRESIDENT: Tom Nguyen AD4NA 636-6663 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building
TARC Nets: VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910
Friendship - Thursdays at 1830 hrs on 146.910
Mosquito - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC Repeaters: VHF - 146.910 and 146.970. UHF - 444.150

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Charles Fagel KR4YZ

The year 1994 has come and gone, and here we are sampling the fruits of 1995. Hopefully, the old year treated you kindly, and the new year will treat you better.

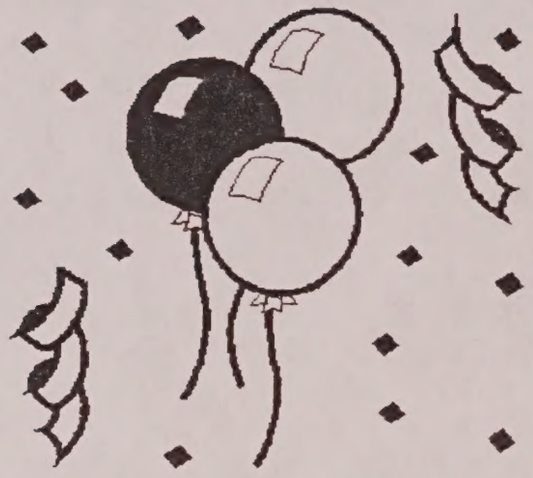
If you were not at the Christmas party, you missed a good one. Santa (José KC4VIO) distributed the Christmas presents, with the help of his elves (Joan KE4SXU and Cliff KC4SYD) Lum (Cliff KC4SYD) and Abner (W4EPU Pike) Provided a barrel of laughs for the crowd. Cliff, our thanks to you and your helpers for a mighty fine evening.

Dr. Ralph (KE4AGL) swore in the new officers: Charlie KR4YZ, Tom AD4NA, Bobbi Sue AD4VV, and Clyde K4EOS. Pike K4EPU presented plaques of appreciation to last years officers: Bud K4CWG, Cliff KC4SYD, Bobbi Sue AD4VV and Clyde K4EOS.

The year 1994, saw the creation of an award in recognition of dedication and outstanding service to the ham community. By means of a 2 meter HT and the PA system, Bud K4CWG assisted by Pike W4EPU remotely presented the "Ham of the Year" award to Dave AC4JX. Dave, our congratulations, and thank you for always being there.

DON'T FORGET !

7 January	Fox hunt at Daytona. Bud K4CWG is the fox.
8 January	TARC fox hunt. "Foxes" Theresa WB4ZUZ, Wynn WB4ZXUY and Warren KS4GP
24 January	TARC meeting at 7:00 at Jaycee Building on N. Singleton.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 1 N4ZNQ JIM MEEKS
JAN. 2 KR4GS TONY LAPENTA
JAN. 3 KE4AGO BILL REALY
JAN. 5 KE6DPF PAUL YOCOM
JAN. 6 KD4RVB JOSE RAMOS, JR.
JAN. 8 N4AWX BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
JAN. 8 N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS
JAN. 12 K4WSE JOHN WOOD
JAN. 12 KC4UAK STEVE GRINER
JAN. 13 WD4DIR JOHN MESSINA
JAN. 14 WB4AXB ART BURSCH
JAN. 17 KO4NQ FRENCHY POULIN
JAN. 17 KE4CRG STEVE SAUNDERS
JAN. 19 KB7UOW BRUCE ERICKSON
JAN. 20 AD4RR RAY EAST
JAN. 21 KE4MFT EDDIE GASS
JAN. 23 KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS
JAN. 23 KD4GPF JOE MYERS
JAN. 24 KD4JAU MICKEY RAMOS
JAN. 26 KD4ZAI WALT HOLLOWELL
JAN. 26 K4SJC LES GRINER
JAN. 28 WA4JWU ROGER VERBLE
jAN. 28 KA1BDC ART DeANGELIS
JAN. 29 KE4GBQ BARBARA DEPPENSMITH

WHEN YOU'RE TALKING, YOU "AIN'T" LEARNING!

PACKET HUMOR FROM THE HAPPY CLUB

By Miguel KB4WWE

Apparently heard on VHF marine radio:

FIRST VOICE: Our radar has you on a collision course with us. You should alter course 10 degrees South.

SECOND VOICE: We have you on our radar. Suggest you alter course 10 degrees Norlth.

FIRST VOICE: We have Admiral Goodman on board. Strongly suggest you bear 10 degrees South. This is a battleship.

SECOND VOICE: This is Seaman Farnsworth. Still suggest you bear 10 degrees North. This is a lighthouse!

HATS OFF!

Despite sub-zero temperatures (Florida style) and a lashing north wind and fog, 14 hardy Hams evaluated the myriad water craft entered in the "Parade of Lights" boat parade on December 17th, and awarded:

Best Overall - Floridaze
Most Creative - Sheila K
Spirit of Christmas - Little Clipper

Among those present for the annual event, and acting as impartial judges were: AC4WM Mitch (Coordinator)
N4SVY Ozzie
W4EPU Pike and Clara
K4CWG Bud
KD4HNW Ken
KE4MFT Eddie
AD4NA Tom
KE4BBG Toyia
KD4UFU Jock
KE4RJA Debbie
KE4RIU Chuck
KC4VIO José

Thank you all for your participation and the intestinal fortitude you all displayed. Next year, dress warm!
73s Cliff KC4SYD

INTRUDERS

By Dave Horsfall VK2WI

The ABC TV program "Foreign Corespondent" screened Tuesday 8th November 1994 ran an item about Cambodia and the hostages. Footage showed government forces in the rebel areas and one scene of the front line communications. The scene showed army personnel using HF communications, most likely back to headquarters, in both voice on sideband and CW. What was significant however was that the equipment was an Amateur band transceiver - an ICOM IC 75A with a displayed frequency of 7088.8 KHz, which is within OUR exclusive international 40 meter band. The close-up of the transceiver showed the frequency - 7088.8 - had been programmed into memory 22 and it was in the lower sideband mode.

Unless there has been recent amendments or alternate use registered with the IYU, the user of this portion of the spectrum would appear to be an intruder.

CW ONLY RELIABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE POLE

Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal

Ships with up-to-date communications equipment have the occasional need for a more dependable mode. A recent Canadian Press article reports that the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, Louis St. Laurent, and the American Coast Guard icebreaker, Polar Sea, had successfully reached the North Pole. Captain Johns, a Coast Guard spokesman in Ottawa, reported that communications had become unreliable on Monday, August 22, while the ships were at the Pole. According to the report, "for most of Monday, the only communications with the two ships was by Morse code because electromagnetic interference from the Pole made voice transmission impossible by either radio or satellite telephone. A Canadian Press reporter managed to receive a barely decipherable voice transmission from the Louis on Monday night, but could not make himself heard."

The ships are the first North American surface ships to reach the North Pole. US, British and Russian submarines have made the trip beneath the surface many times. Surface ships from Sweden and Germany as well as four Russian ships, some with tourists aboard, routinely cross the Pole.

DSP MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER TOY

From RAC News Bulletin

Have you heard about the new device called a DSP or digital signal processor? It was reviewed in the October QST. Mike Cook VE3ZMC, writing in the London Amateur Radio Club Bulletin, says he's tried it and "It's more than just a toy."

He is using a version manufactured by Timewave. The device takes the audio output of the radio rig from the external speaker or phone jack as its input, and sends its output to a speaker or phones. Before it outputs a signal, the device works a series of minor miracles on the audio that can end up making the 80M ONTARS net sound like an FM repeater. The DSP drops the background noise by 20-30 dB, according to Mike. That's enough to make a real difference in ease of listening, he says.

With the DSP on line, weak signals can be heard easily. It also allows electronic filters to be selected so that a passband appropriate for the SSB or CW signal can be established. On CW, the passband can be as narrow as 25 Hz, so the ability to isolate one station is excellent. Because of the way noise reduction is handled, be it CW or phone, the signal is hardly affected compared to the noise, so the signal to noise ratio is increased.

"Just using it for a while has convinced me that this technology is the way to go", comments Mike.

FREE FEMA TRAINING FOR HAMS

From Amateur Radio Newsline

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, says that it has available at no cost, several home study courses on disaster preparedness response. According to a posting by KD6RXY these courses can be converted to college credits if desired. Courses of interest for RACES and ARES emergency communicators are Emergency USA, Hazardous Materials Orientation and A Citizens Guide to Disaster Assistance. Emergency Coordinators and other leadership personnel may also find the course Emergency Program Manager of interest.

For further information please write to FEMA-EMI Home Study Program, 16825 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

ZAPPER - ZAPPED

From Newsline Radio

The Zapper, a radio transmitter that can be altered to set off automobile radar detectors, has itself been zapped by the FCC. According to the Reuter News Service, Electronic Rainbow, Inc. of Indianapolis, which advertised its transmitter as a way to stop speeders, said it has heeded a Federal Communications Commission order to stop selling the $50 unit.

The company claims that the device was originally intended for amateur radio operators communications. But a check by Newsline of recent issues of QST, CQ, 73 and Amateur Radio Trader Magazines shows no advertiser listing for either Electronic Rainbow or any microwave communications device by them for hams. And the Reuter story says that with only a few minor adjustments, the unit changes frequency to 10.525 gigahertz, which triggers alarms on radar detectors.

The FCC stopped short of sayng that the Zapper is not really a piece of ham gear. It does note that the unit has not received federal approval and would likely be required to have safeguards to prevent its alternative use as a signal to radar detectors if its ever again placed for sale. This is because radar detectors are illegal in several states, and a federal law prohibits truckers from using them. Had it refused to comply with the FCC order to quit selling the Zapper, the company faced a fine of $10,000 per day.

DX

From Amateur Radio Newsline

In DX listen for Haiti back on the air. Missionaries HH1D and HH1T are Darlene Young, KB8CTC and husband Tim, KB8CTD. The husband and wife duo reportedly operate between 14.260 and 13.350 MHz around 22:00 UTC and 7.288 MHz at 10:00 hours UTC. They are believed to be running a TS-450S from a solar charged battery system. QSL as they direct.

BITS, BAUDS, BAUBLES AND BANGLES

By Jim Piper KD6YKL

Back in the days of yore (not mine, yore), when digital communications meant interrupted continuous wave (CW), folks measured transmission rates in words per minute. Then came Teletype and the favored yardstick for information transmission rates became the baud (after French keyboard pioneer Emile Baudot).

As speed advanced to 300 baud, that measure of transmission rate over a digital communications line (which can be a telegraph wire or a radio patch) served well. But technology continued to press forward. As rates passed 1200 bits per second (bps), 300 baud began to seem smallish. Todays fibre-optic lines allow data rates as high as 2.4 gigabits per second (2,500,000,000 bps). Even our relatively narrow UHF ham bands can easily carry data at 9,600 bps.

Most hams use baud to describe data rate regardless of the transmission medium. Yet. confusing baud and bps clouds the discussion of data transmission rates. (Its a little like asking what time it is when you want to know how much time is left). The problem with the indiscriminate use of the term baud stems from a misunderstanding of its meaning. According to Webster, the IEEE and the ARRL, a baud is a unit of signaling speed equal to one discrete condition or event per second. In CW, a discrete signaling condition occurs each time a radio transmitter is keyed on or off.

How does this relate to baud? If you key your transmitter at the rate of 5 words per minute and the average word length is six characters, and each character has an average of three dits and dahs, you are producing 180 symbols per minute (5 WPM x 6 x 6). You could say that you were transmitting CW at 6 baud because you are transmitting an average of 360 discrete conditions per minute, or 6 per second. Of course, we normally don't describe CW rates in baud, but in words per minute.

One often hears packet radio and voice frequency modes discussed in terms of baud. The actual rate at which data (i.e., digital information) flows depends on the ratio of bits per baud. Baud rate and bit rate are equal only at speeds of 300 baud and below, and only for FSK modulation without parity bits. Other modulation schemes such as phase-shift keying (PSK, BPSK, and QPSK), CLOVER, etc, stuff more bits into each baud. That's why, for the sake of accuracy, I encourage you to use the much less confusing bits per second measure rather than the baud.

(Just kidding about the baubles and bangles).

THIS AND THAT
By Joan Hoag

The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad indeed! Mirror of the Months

In ancient Rome, Cato's preferred hangover cure was raw cabbage leaves.

Now a fresh wind bringeth a fair day to ponder one's life-style and see if it has any.

Running a house is no rose garden. But it's no bramble patch, either, and a lot of it's therapeutic, and you can't tell me a lot of women don't know it, whether they're holding down outside jobs or not. Aunt Henry Macadang quoted by Peg Bracken.

In 1872, we used over 250,000 pounds of opium. The habit of opium eating seems to prevail chiefly among women. This may explain the great percentage of farmers' wives in lunatic asylums. The prevalence of the habit is probably explained by the unhappiness of most of them, the mental stagnation, the seclusion and grinding physical work. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Almanac. 1875.

On January 10, 1976, Mrs. James Harbottle of 52 Oak Trees, discovered at her buffet supper for ten that only three people ate the lettuce under their Waldorf salad.

She who wax ashtrays do slick cleaning job quicker. Wun Bum Lung, Chinese sage 1930-51 via Peg Bracken

Never have I lost my early faith that wisdom is to be found somewhere in a book - to be picked up as easily as a shell from the sand. Robert Lynd

In 1846 Sarah Bagley became the first woman telegrapher.

Of the home economists we have met, all had one trait in common; none of them was at home. E. B. White

How can it be demeaning for a woman to clean her floors at home when it isn't demeaning for a man to clean the streets?

ISABELLINE: a lovely soft pale gray, named for Queen Isabelle of Spain who vowed she wouldn't change her underwear until Granada was retaken from the Moors. It took a long time. I'm not sure one has anything at all to do with the other!

Dirt is only misplaced matter.

"Mrs. Jones", said the doctor frowning. "I don't like the way your husband looks." "I don't either", said Mrs. Jones, "but he's good to the kids."

No matter what the paint can says, the job will need another coat.

A drop of salad oil in a teaspoon of household ammonia makes invisible ink. It will be legible when dipped in water.

Butterflies taste with the soles of their feet! I read it myself in a butterfly book, and thought what a pleasure, whenever they eat, for it's bound to be sole food, whatever they cook.

CHRISTMAS PARADE
By Cliff Hoag KC4SYD

The 1994 Jaycee's annual Christmas Parade started precisely at 7:00 PM, despite the usual minimal problems! A great big thank you to the 31 members and their families for a good job, well done! This appeared to be the largest parade in many years, and the TARC effort was strained beyond the limit. i.e. we could not cover all bases. Thank you all again for contributing your time and effort in the interest of our community and spreading the joy of Christmas. If I missed anyone on the list, please excuse me. If you were there, you'll understand!

KE4MWZ-MIKE	WD4JNM-MARTY	KE4RIV-CHUCK
KR4YZ-CHARLEY	N4CTQ-LOU	N2USO-MARIE
W4OPZ-JOE	KD4VFU-JACK	KE4RFJ-DEBBIE
KS4GP-WARREN	K4SJC-LES	KD4SRN-RAY
KE4KCT-CHARLY	W4EPU-PIKE	AD4NA-TOM
KE4BBG-TOYIA	KD4CBT-CARL	KD4UZS-JOE
KE4LNS-DON	KE4AGL-RALPH	KC4UUX-ALAN
WA3EKM-BRUCE	N4SCY-OZZIE	K1SKQ-MAC
KE4MXB-BONNIE	K4CWG-BUD	KF4AEB-JOE
AC4JX-DAVID	KD4HNW-KENNY	KD4UFS-STEVE

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

The Grid Dip Oscillator. It is without a doubt, the most useful instrument to have around a ham shack. Sometimes it is called grid dipper, g.d.o. or just plain dipper. For brevity purposes we will refer to it here as, simply g.d.o. It was first developed and introduced to the amateur radio world in an article in CQ magazine in 1947. The article gave detailed instructions and plans for building the g.d.o. At that time this writer built it according to those instructions. I still have it, it is still functional, and it is used quite often. The g.d.o. makes use of the fact that when power is taken from an active RF circuit, current in the circuit decreases. Quite simply, power in a circuit is equal to the voltage times the current. (P=EI) Since, when power is taken from a circuit, the voltage remains about the same, power is reduced, so something has to give. Therefore, only one thing can happen - the current decreases, or "dips".

By powering up the g.d.o. and placing in close proximity to a secondary circuit (antenna, RC circuit, etc.) tuned to the same frequency, the secondary circuit is activated and absorbs power from the g.d.o., causing the g.d.o. current to reduce or "dip". The dip is measured by placing a current meter somewhere in the g.d.o. circuit. In the original vacuum tube g.d.o., like the one I have, it is placed in the grid circuit, thus, "Grid dip oscillator". The g.d.o. being calibrated in frequency, the frequency of the secondary circuit can then be determined by reading the frequency directly from the g.d.o. dial. The MDJSWR Analyzer, a later version and a very popular instument for designing antennas is nothing more than a g.d.o. with a built in RF frequency counter. The counter obviously provides a much more accurate frequency determination than the dial calibration on the g.d.o. This would lead one to assume that this feature has rendered the g.d.o., more or less, obsolete.

BUT WAIT! The g.d.o. is simply a low power transmitter emitting radio frequencies and a counter will detect these frequencies. Therefore by using a counter in conjunction with a g.d.o., one can attain the same accuracy as with the MFJ. Thus, if you have a counter, or can borrow one from K4SJC, and a conventional g.d.o., you are in business.

In my case, I have mounted a BNC connector on my g.d.o. with a pickup loop inside. Using a short piece of coax, I connect a counter to the g.d.o. antenna input, giving me an accurate frequency determination.

Finally, grid oscillators are relatively plentiful and inexpensive at hamfests. If one has access to a counter it is really an inexpensive way to get into frequency measuring business for antennaes and other RF devices.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 73s es 88s

THE LIFE OF THE WIFE OF A HAM

By Donna Steichen

I often think of how lucky it is
to be the wife of a Ham.
Just consider the lot of the woman who's got
a sportsman who goes on the lam!

He's off to the golf links, off to the shore,
to some other town for a game.
He's off to the hunt, or viewing a bunt,
or playing until he is lame.

He is just as "away" when deciding to stay
to watch some games on TV.
For in come the friends, out come the snacks,
and the den is no place to be!

Now our Hams have a shack that's way in the back,
but at home where their money's invested.
When something breaks down, he can be found
where his electrical skills can be tested.

We are free to watch what we like on the tube,
and do our work when we please.
We give them a snack in their radio shacks,
then clean the rest of the house with ease.

He's here to be near, and to share our home.
I can tell him I love him a lot.
And sometimes can pet, when he's not on the net.
I thank God for the deal I've got!

TREASURER'S REPORT

By K4EOS Clyde Lee

BALANCE FORWARD FROM 1993	518.90
DEPOSITS Year to date	8285.87
TOTAL INCOME	$8804.77
EXPENDITURES	7338.27
BALANCE AS AT 11/30/94	$1466.50

NOVEMBER MEETING

By Bobbi Sue Wood AD4VV

The meeting was called to oder at 1905 hrs by Bud - K4CWG, before some 45 members/guests. After the "pledge", silent prayer and introductions, the following subjects were discussed:

- K4EOS - Clyde showed some personalized belt buckles which he purposed to obtain for the club, and which the club could resell in order to generate revenue. No action was taken by the members regarding this proposal.

- KE4RIV - Chuck noted his intent to start a "traders net" to be aired each evening between 1800 hrs and 1900 hrs, using the two meter repeaters or the ten meter 28.333 frequency, as appropriate. No action was taken by the members regarding this use of the club repeaters.

- K4SJC - Les advised that there has been repeated unauthorized interventions on the 910 repeater, and unauthorized use of the patch. These illegal acts have been reported to the FCC and it is hoped the perpetrator soon will be found and prosecuted.

- KC4SYD - Cliff reported that 56 members responded to the emergency alert caused by tropical storm Gordon, and most of them were able to stay "ready" during the entire alert! Looks like we're really putting it together! Great work, guys!

- It was noted that some new member-applicants already had paid dues in anticipation of being accepted as members, and the members voted to accept these applications.

- At 2010 hrs business matters were put on "hold" for a short break, and goodies, courtesy of KD4VFQ-Kay, were enjoyed.

- Then the meeting was resumed for the purpose of electing officers and directors for next year. the results:

President:	KR4YZ - Charlie
V.Pres.:	AD4NA - Tom
Secretary:	AD4VV - Bobbi Sue
Treasurer	K4EOS - Clyde
Director:	KE4MWZ - Mike
Director:	KD4VFQ - Kay
Director:	KC4VIO - José

Congratulations to our new "chiefs" for the next year! And many, many thanks to those who did such a splendid job of leading and developing the club through this year, and who now will retire (oh yea?).

The meeting was adjourned at 2110 hrs, though folks seemed to hang out for awhile after, just gabb'en and such!

MISSING MANUALS?

Missing the operating or service manual for a piece of equipment you own? W4UYZ Jim Creevay is the person to talk to. He has a source for these missing manuals for ham gear, hi fi, TV, etc. The company is A. G. Tannenbaum, Box 110, E. Rockaway, NY 11518. Phone 516-887-0057. Jim has their catalog and you can reach him at 632-6809. He can probably tell you if the manual you need is available.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total Membership: and 8	272 (includes 55 family members honorary)
New Members:	AB6NT BILL MALLMAN KD4UZS JOE CARTER KE4RFH BOB CRAWFORD KE4SXU JOAN HOAG KC4WKV SANDY THORNE
Renewals:	K4BZJ LES WIDDICK W4CCQ ROBERT DARRAH AD4CU PAT PATTERSON W8DGD JIM CAMPBELL KD4HNW KEN DENMAN AA4FY NORM FOSTER KD4HON GEORGE FISCHER N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS W4LEW JOHN WALTERS KA4LTK LLOYD MULLENS KK4SH VINCE GONZALES N4VIV AL SCHWGER N4VIU MARY SCHWAGER KC4ZHW KARL BUSHONG

UPCOMING FLORIDA HAMFESTS

1/7-8	Ft. Meyers Hamfest Talk-in on 147.345
1/21	Cystal River Talk-in on 146.955
1/22	Pinellas Park Talk-in on 147.060
1/28	Sarasota Hamfest Talk-in on 146.910
2/4-5	Miami Hamfest Talk-in on 146.760
2/11	Arcadia Talk-in on 147.075
2/11	Pensacola Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925
2/18-19	Orlando Hamfest Talk-in on 146.670
2/25	Stuart Hamfest Talk-in on 147.060
2/25	Brooksville Talk-in on 146.715
3/11	Sebring Talk-in on 147.060
4/8-9	Gainesville Talk-in on 146.820

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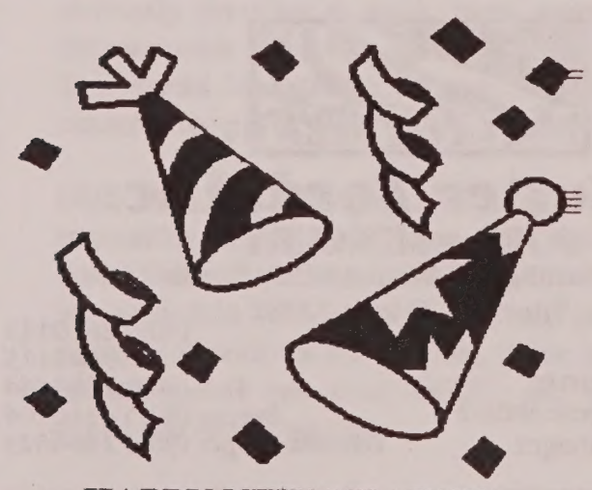

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!